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## SENATE PASSES PROHIBITION BILL BY 35 TO 3 VOTE

**Conrad Amendment, Putting Attorney-General in Charge, Is Defeated.**

### ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE CARRIES EVERY POINT

**Bill Provides Commissioner of Prohibition, Elected by General Assembly.**

### CONGRATULATE SENATOR MAPP

**Vote Comes After Seven Days of Turbulent Debate—Bill Goes to House.**

Practically unscathed in seven days of turbulent debate, the Mapp bill, making statutory expression to the will of the people that Virginia should swing to the column of "dry," State by a vote of 35 to 3, passed the Senate yesterday afternoon shortly after 6 o'clock. On the final passage of the measure, Senators Cannon and Wendenburg, of Richmond, and Senator Downing, of Warren, voted in the negative.

Re-enforced by many members of the House of Delegates, who had been attracted to the chamber early in the day to hear noisy debate on the ill-fated Conrad amendment, making the Attorney-General ex officio commissioner of prohibition, a crowd that filled every available seat in the gallery and stood expectant around the wall of the Senate floor heard the presiding officer announce that the "ayes" had it and the bill was passed.

Though frankly sympathetic with the standpat "dry" element of the Senate throughout the week of stormy debate, taking advantage of every opportunity to express approval of the course pursued by the accepted prohibition leaders of the body, the spectators made no sort of demonstration when they were assured of the complete success of the orthodox faction.

**SENATOR MAPP IS CENTER FOR MANY CONGRATULATIONS**

When it was all over supporters and opponents of the measure still pressed forward to extend congratulations to Senator Mapp, who, though convalescing from a severe illness, left a brilliant fight for the adoption of the measure that bears his name.

Senator Cannon, before casting his vote, made a brief statement giving the reasons that actuated him in the course he pursued of taking issue with the great majority of his colleagues. "After the most serious consideration," he said, "I cannot bring myself to the conclusion that this bill expresses the will of the people of Virginia. Were it submitted back to them as was the enabling act, I believe they would register even a greater majority against than they did in favor of States-wide prohibition."

Senator Buchanan, who has been ill for several days in his room at the Jefferson Hotel, was unable to be in his seat. Had he been there he would have voted for the measure. Senator Dilcher had left the chamber.

**FINAL VOTE ON 35 TO 3**

**PASSAGE OF THE BILL**

The vote was as follows:

Ayes—Addison, Allen, Andrews, Barron, Bowes, Boyd, Conrad, Corliss, Davis, Dredge, Early, Garrett, Gayle, Goodloe, Goodrich, Gravatt, Gunn, Hensel, Holt, Jeffreys, Jordan, Lucy, Mapp, Mathews, Rinehart, Rison, Robertson, Roval, Saenger, Strode, Thornton, Trinkle, Walker, Webb and West—35.

Nos—Cannon, Downing and Wendenburg—3.

Whatever of interest, however, that may have attached to the final passage of the bill in the upper branch of the General Assembly was eclipsed by the spectacular fight, led by Senator Conrad, of Harrisonburg, to place the responsibility of enforcing the law upon the shoulders of the Attorney-General, making him ex officio commissioner of prohibition. His amendment was defeated by a vote of 23 to 15.

**UNWILLING TO MAKE OFFICE**

**POLITICAL FOOTBALL**

Though conveniently at all times to Attorney-General Pollard, opponents of the amendment had no hesitancy in expressing unwillingness to make the commissionhip "the political football in a triangular fight for the gubernatorial nomination." Senator Mapp, who strenuously opposed the suggestion, openly asserted that there had been whisperings around the hotel lobbies of factional politics playing a part in the issue.

At this point, Senator Addison interrupted the speaker and inquired if he had not also heard it said that orders had gone out from Washington, emanating from leaders of the dominant political faction in Virginia, that the amendment must be defeated. "Speaking for myself," said Senator Mapp, "I can say that I have received no orders from any one. My fight is not the fight of a faction. But I do say this—the commissionership will not be a success, in my opinion, if you make it the capital of either faction."

"Let us elect our own commissioner, without regard to partisan politics, and tell him that he is commissioned for the purpose of putting the lie on the claims of the 'wets' during the campaign of 1914 that prohibition laws could not be enforced."

**CONRAD DENIES PETTY POLITICAL MOTIVES**

Spoor was put in the argument at the very outset, when Senator Conrad, speaking in support of his amendment, threw out the broad challenge that "any insinuation or assertion that this amendment was offered by any but the **shallow and purest motives** is without the shadow or the foundation of truth."

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

### McCombs Will Not Seek Re-Election

**Chairman of National Democratic Committee So Notifies President.**

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

NEW YORK, February 24.—William E. McCombs, chairman of the National Democratic Committee, has notified President Wilson that he will not be a candidate for re-election at the convention in St. Louis in June. Fred B. Lynch, of Minnesota, has also expressed his disinclination to conduct the 1916 campaign.

Though the President is said to have made no choice, two possibilities for national chairman have been suggested. One is H. S. Cummings, of Connecticut, vice-chairman. The other is Robert S. Hudspeth, of New Jersey.

Mr. McCombs became the Wilson Warwick in 1916. He and former Senator James Smith, Colonel George Harvey, James R. Nugent and the late Robert Thompson helped elect Mr. Wilson Governor of New Jersey.

Despite sneers from veteran Democratic leaders, Mr. McCombs organized a nation-wide movement, which resulted in the nomination and election of Mr. Wilson to the presidency.

Friends of Mr. McCombs urged the President to make him a Cabinet member. President Wilson chose William McAdoo. Mr. McCombs' political usefulness, instead.

Moors, McCombs and Lynch met recently. It was agreed that neither should be a candidate for chairman.

The President is said to be exceedingly anxious that William Church Osborne shall be retained as chairman of the New York State committee, but the leaders renewed their talk of supplanting him.

### FLETCHER IS THREE SHORT

**Only Lack of Quorum Prevents His Being Confirmed as Ambassador to Mexico.**

WASHINGTON, February 24.—Only the lack of a quorum prevented the confirmation in the Senate late to-day of the nomination of Henry Fletcher Fletcher as ambassador to Mexico. On a motion to confirm, the roll call showed thirty-four affirmative votes and twelve negative. This was three short of a quorum and the Senate adjourned to take up the nomination to-morrow for a final vote.

The Senate reached a vote on the nomination of Mr. Fletcher after less than an hour's debate. Opposition speeches were made by Senators Borah, Smith of Idaho, and Fall of New Mexico, all of whom declared that to confirm the nomination would be committing the Senate to the administration's recognition of the Chiriquia government.

Administration leaders said to-night that the nomination would be confirmed without difficulty to-morrow.

### MAY OFFEND AMERICANS

**Causes in English Official Circles Over Fear of Effect of Carr. Tones and Editorials.**

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.)

LONDON, February 24.—Many cartoons and editorials reflecting upon American diplomacy and the American administration have appeared recently in British publications. Much uneasiness is felt in official circles from fear of the effect of these publications upon American opinion.

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(Continued on Fifth Page.)

### POLL TAXES REMAIN FOR PEACE EXCEPT REAL ESTATE LIEN AT COST OF HONOR

**House After Prolonged Debate by Vote of 41 to 41, Declines to Repeal Law.**

President Ends Speculation Over What Is Position of Government.

### VOTE TO AMEND CONSTITUTION

**Primary Law Altered, Cutting Out Petitions From Qualified Voters.**

After approving the repeal of the law which constitutes the capitation tax a lien upon real estate owned by the person at the time such capitation tax is assessed, the House of Delegates yesterday experienced a sudden and decided change of heart, and defeated the Cox-Cousins repeat bill by a vote of 41 to 41, the measure failing for the lack of a majority vote.

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### WILL BE REPEATED

**TO HOUSE LEADERS**

The President's statement will be repeated to-morrow to Speaker Clark, Representative Kitchin, majority leader, and Representative Flood, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, who late to-day asked for an engagement in order to explain the position in which the House found itself and ask the President for a statement of the administration's views.

The President wrote his letter during the afternoon, shutting himself up in his study, while congressional leaders vainly attempted to get him on the telephone to tell him of developments at the Capitol and to arrange for the call of the House leaders.

He began to write after telephone conferences with Cabinet members and other close advisers. His decision was to end all speculation over what the position of the government was and to let Congress and the country know that the administration believed the bill was in the future with regard to under-sea warfare seems for the moment to threaten insuperable obstacles, but its apparent meaning is so manifestly inconsistent with explicit assurances recently given us by those powers, with regard to their treatment of merchant vessels on the high seas, that I must believe that explanations will presently ensue which will put a different aspect on it. We have had no reason to question their good faith or their fidelity to their promises in the past, and I, for one, feel confident that we shall have none in the future.

### NO CHOICE AS TO WHAT OUR COURSE SHOULD BE

"But in any event our duty is clear. No nation, no group of nations, has the right while war is in progress to alter or disregard the principles which all nations have agreed upon in mitigation of the horrors and sufferings of war; and if the clear rights of American citizens should ever unhappily be abridged or denied by any such action, we should, it seems to me, have no choice as to what our own course should be.

"For my own part, I cannot consent to any abridgment of the rights of American citizens in any respect. The honor and self-respect of the nation is involved. We covet peace, and shall preserve it at any cost but the loss of honor. To forbid our people to exercise their rights for fear we might be called upon to vindicate them, would be an implicit, all but explicit, acquiescence in the violation of the rights of mankind everywhere and of whatever nation or allegiance. It would be a deliberate abdication of our hitherto proud position as spokesmen, even against the tumult of war, for the law and the right. It would make anything this government has attempted and everything that it has achieved during this terrible struggle of nations insignificant and futile.

Senator Gore made an unsuccessful effort to introduce a concurrent resolution expressing the sentiment of Congress that Americans should keep off armed merchant ships and a bill requiring Americans in procuring passage ports to take oath that they would not travel on such ships. Introduction of these measures required unanimous consent, and opposition was made by Senator Brandegee, Republican.

The House was impressed with the argument of those supporting the bill, and passed it by a vote of 57 to 29. Thereupon Delegate Gordon, of Louisiana, moved that the vote be reconsidered. Speaking to this motion, Mr. Gordon addressed the members on the desirability of retaining the law, pointing out that it has resulted in the payment to the State of a large volume of capitation taxes, which would otherwise remain uncollected. Since the revenue from this tax is applied wholly to the schools, he said, the repeal of the law would materially reduce the educational fund.

Others spoke in the same tenor. The backbone turned the tide, and the House carried the motion to reconsider the vote by which the bill was passed. Voting again on the final passage of the bill, the House defeated the measure, 41 to 41, the bill failing to receive a majority of the votes cast.

### HOUSE CONCURS IN CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The House concurred in the Senate joint resolution amending the Constitution so as to strike out the section requiring bills to be read at length on three separate calendar days, and providing instead that bills may be read by both houses, and the amendment merely seeks to legalize what is already being done.

By a vote of 60 to 5, the House concurred in the Senate joint resolution amending the Constitution so as to allow the cities of the Commonwealth to employ as officers nonresident experts of the present law required municipal officers to be voters. This requirement has frequently embarrassed cities, who find it necessary on short notice to call an election requiring a person of specialized training, who is not always to be found in the local community.

The House passed the Hundley-Summons bill, which amends the present primary law so as to provide for the return of the fees paid in by candidates against whom no opposition develops. The bill also strikes out the requirement of the present law requiring a prospective candidate for a local office to file with his notice of candidacy a petition signed by fifty qualified voters.

### PETITIONS HELD TO BE WITHOUT REAL VALUE

Delegates Myers and Meetez supported Delegate Hundley in the statement that the petition feature of the present law is useless and without significance. One signer of a petition, it was stated, frequently signs the petitions of two or three rivals, thus rendering them meaningless as any well-founded expression on the part of the voter.

In some communities, the House was told, there are not enough voters from which to recruit the fifty required by law, and in others the voting population is so scattered that the signing up of the petition is a difficult and laborious task.

The argument struck a sympathetic chord, and hardly a voice was lifted to oppose the passage of the bill. A few minutes before the body passed the Hobson bill amending the primary law to require notice of candidacy to be filed thirty instead of twenty days before the holding of the primary, and requiring the ballots to be printed twenty days in advance, instead of ten days in advance, as the law now requires. The amendments were made primarily to make the law conform with the bill, already passed by the House, which allows absences, under certain conditions, to vote by registered mail.

### HANEL CONFESSES

**Indicted for Murder in Connection With Robbery and Killing of Mrs. Heilner, Wealthy Brooklyn Widow.**

NEW YORK, February 24.—An indictment charging murder in the first degree, growing out of the robbery and murder of Mrs. Julia Heilner, a wealthy Brooklyn widow, was returned to-day against Joseph E. Hanel, arrested recently in Baltimore. Hanel made a full confession, according to the district attorney's office, in which he declared he killed Mrs. Heilner by striking her over the head with a baton and then strangling her with a rope.

At this point, Senator Addison interrupted the speaker and inquired if he had not also heard it said that orders had gone out from Washington, emanating from leaders of the dominant political faction in Virginia, that the amendment must be defeated. "Speaking for myself," said Senator Mapp, "I can say that I have received no orders from any one. My fight is not the fight of a faction. But I do say this—the commissionership will not be a success, in my opinion, if you make it the capital of either faction."

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**MAURETANIA RELEASED**